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November 28, 1952

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

SECURITY AND PUBLIC REPORTING ASPECTS
OF 1952 PACIFIC TESTS

Note by the Secretary

The attached report on the above subject, compiled by a staff group, is circulated by request of the General Manager for the information of the Commission.

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H.L. Hooper 11/22/85
REVIEWED BY DATE
J. Dietz 1/22/86
REVIEWED BY DATE

By: P.M. Sweetman 6/11/86

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Classification	13
Information	14-16
Military Application	17
Security	18
Santa Fe Operations	19-21
Secretariat	22-24

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APPENDIX "H"

ABSTRACT OF NEWS STORIES BASED ON LETTERS

The highlights of letters or text as carried in U.S wire service and/or newspaper stories are as follows:

Los Angeles Examiner - Nov. 8, 1952: hydrogen bomb detonated; vaporized into gas and dust the atoll, a half mile wide and three miles long; no dates or time; shipboard.

Lima, Ohio News - 30.4 miles from detonation on shipboard; island burned and "disappeared"; 13 seconds after shot a flame about two miles wide was shooting five miles into air and lasted about 7.2 seconds; thousands of tons of earth thrown into sky. cloud began to form 20 seconds after shot; heard explosion which made my ears ring; mushroom cloud mile wide at bottom and 20 miles at top; Captain told us it went at least 15 miles up; 15 minutes after shot time island started to burn and turned brilliant red; mile wide island burned within six hours and disappeared; time of shot October 1 (probably typographical error)

Michigan City News Dispatch - writer identified as sailor whose ship hauled bomb from San Francisco to Marshall Islands; cruising 35 miles from test island; bomb went off at 7:15 am on November 1, 1952; blew the top of a building 18 miles away.

Salt Lake City Desert News - letter mentioned "unbelievable" beauty of explosion. (DIS does not have this story.)

Philadelphia Inquirer (United Press from Washington, Nov. 12)

1. Naval lieutenant's letter published in Charlotte, N.C., by a sister. (We do not have original clipping in DIS.)
2. Seaman Andrew I. Butters wrote parents in Ford Dodge, Iowa, he was on ship closest to detonation on Nov. 1. Island quarter of mile wide was completely destroyed.

Chicago, Associated Press, Nov. 13

1. Decatur Review - Sailor writes his ship helped evacuate the atoll and was 32 miles from shot morning of Nov. 1. Felt heat and about 2-1/2 minutes later heard rumbling.
2. Bloomington Pantagraph - Dwight, Illinois, navy man gave details but did not say what type of bomb. (Clips of Decatur and Bloomington papers not available in DIS.)

Knoxville, Tenn., United Press, Nov. 13 - Seaman Robert Walsh wrote mother that explosion Nov. 1 created ball of fire some 20 miles in circumference; aboard tanker Agawan patrolling 32 miles from blast.

Paris, Tenn., United Press, Nov. 14 - Lloyd R. Marconett, Navy navigation officer of Modesto, Calif. writes Curtis Mullen, his uncle and publisher of the Parisian, that he witnessed "the most destructive force yet made by man" and expects to see another of even greater intensity; gives Nov. 1 as date; was on duty on Shanks; dust, debris and water towered 50,000 feet in air; sound of explosion made 5,000 pound bomb sound like a fire-cracker in comparison.